Hey everyone.
I went a bit overboard with the next episode. I'm trying something elaborate for it, and quickly realizing between that and some unexpected life stuff, I can't finish it by my deadline without cutting corners.
So it's time for that *magical Q&A* I promised last time we did one of these!
Hope you enjoy!

# THE SWORD INTERVAL

## A MAGICAL Q&A PRESENTED BY P·A·C·T·

PARANORMAL AWARENESS, COUNSELING, & TEACHING

Heya kiddos! I'm Jynx the P.A.C.T. Cat, here to make a pact not to use magic! Today we have a very special guest-speaker, Daniel Quinn!
SCHOOL

Hi, I'm Daniel! I used to be a big-bad warlock! As part of my state-mandated community service, I'm here to teach you about *magic*. So who's ready to learn??
HAPPY B-DAY KAREN
clap clap
clap clap

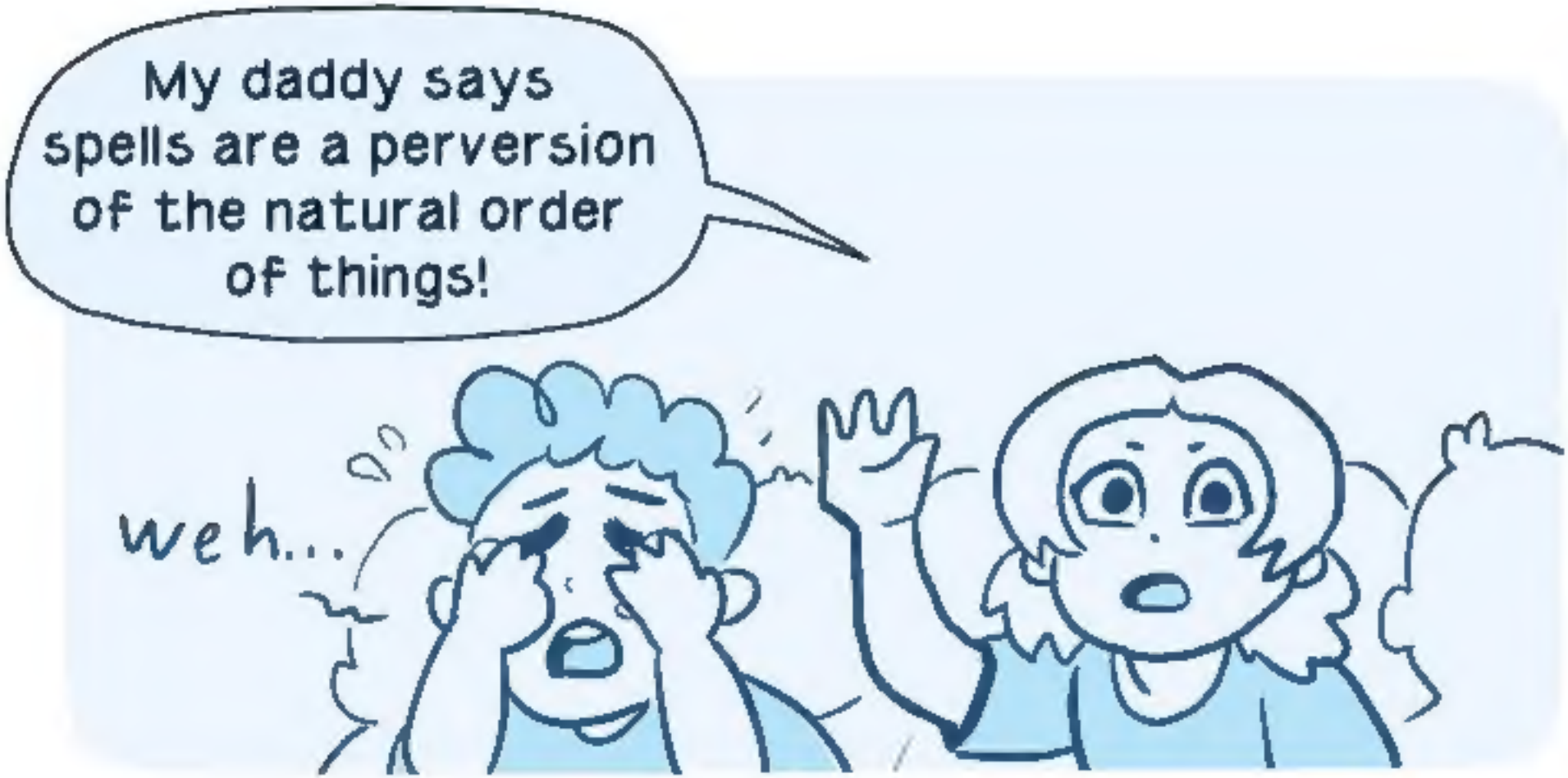
The first thing you need to know to comprehend magic is–

– IT IS, BY ITS NATURE, INCOMPREHENSIBLE!

Those who have dared to define it - to constrain it - have found themselves driven mad! Ousted from their communities for what they know!
For where does the supernatural end, and mortal magic begin??
P.A.C.T.

HAPPY B-DAY KAREN
...
weeeh...

P.A.C.T.
...But for our purposes we'll be talking about mages–warlocks, witches, wizards... Whatever name they go by, we're talking human–beings that cast spells!
Can anybody tell me what a spell is?
Sob sob


My daddy says spells are a perversion of the natural order of things!
weh...

Ha
haha
..!

That's correct!

But what makes each mage different is just *how* they pervert that natural order!
A spell is a series of words of power that, *hopefully*, produce a desired effect. Maybe a wall of stone! Or a fireball! Unlike the sort of ambient magic that saturates just about everything, spells have replicable effects!
H I J K L M N
HARRY

Some mages focus on manipulating the elements. This is a safer kind of magic, because it draws power from the world around the mage, rather than the mage themselves.

The tradeoff is these magic words are complicated. Just... too complicated for a human mind to contain! That's why a lot of practitioners of this type of magic need to carry their words with them as books, focuses, even tattoos!

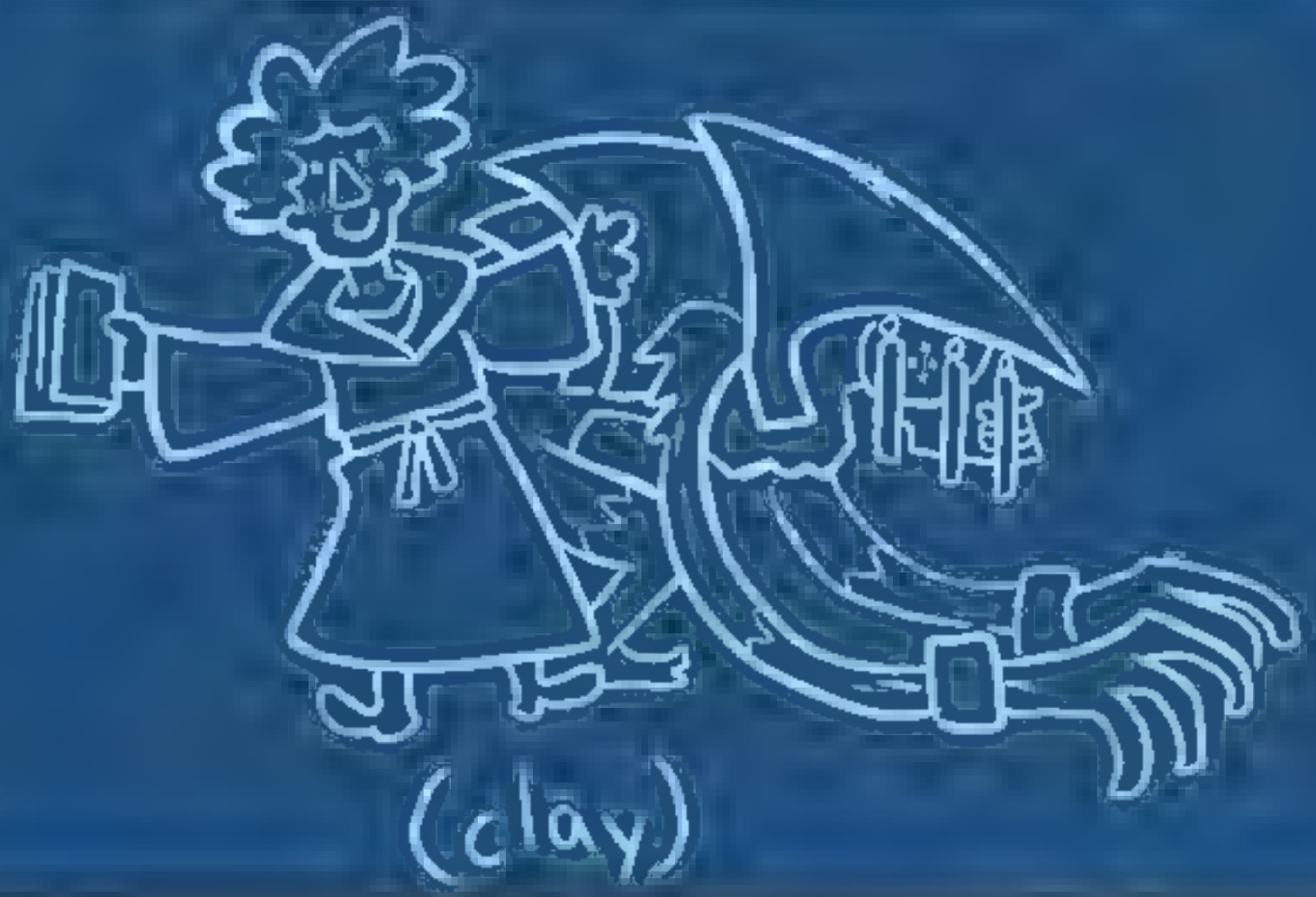
Learning to work with more than one element is sort of like learning different languages – so a lot of mages either specialize in only an element or two, or learn just the basics in as many elements as possible – like learning to say "where is the bathroom" in every tongue!

(light)

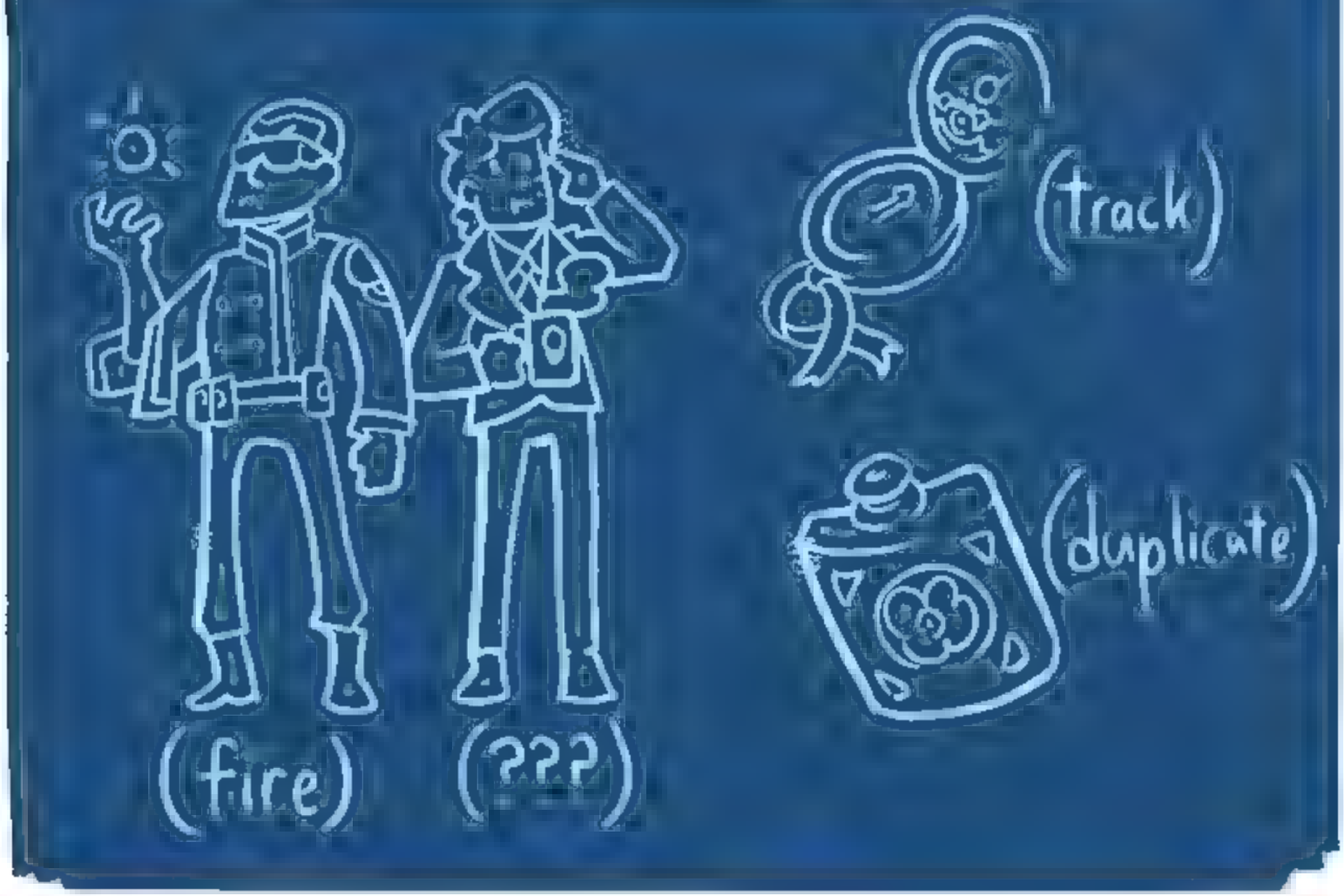
donde esta el bano

(bit of everything)

This sort of magic can also be used to bind ambient... I mean ***malevolent, very bad*** spirits to the element of choice. But doing this is highly illegal! Unless you're one of the few organizations with a complete stranglehold on golem-manufacturing! HAHA! It's the people in power that decide what's moral!



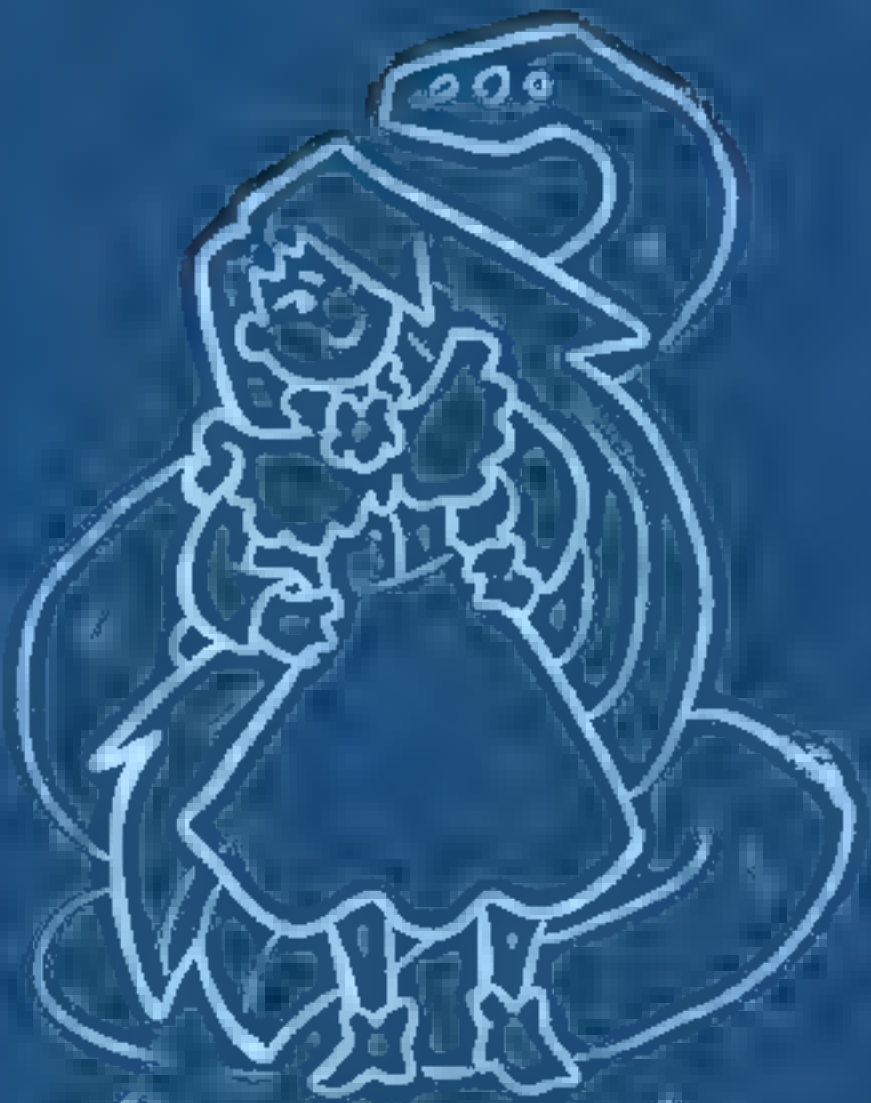
And again, doing magic is ***hard***. Being a true mage is a full-time investment, so some people out there just learn one or two tricks. Or you could use enchanted items! Items with a spell baked right into them, magic'd up and ready to go! Only ***some*** of these are cursed!



Now, manipulating the outside world isn't the only way to do magic. You could also manipulate yourself if you're nasty. And that's witches!
Witches are nasty!

A witch uses their own body parts to fuel their magic! Gross! Because their spells are effectively a part of them, they have much more specific control over their magic, and often have a wider array of powers than a typical "wizard".

The more precious the body part used, the greater potential for the magic! Using your own body is taxing though. Witches may have finer control, but they can't keep casting their spells all day long. Stronger witches develop familiars too – animals their magic resembles.



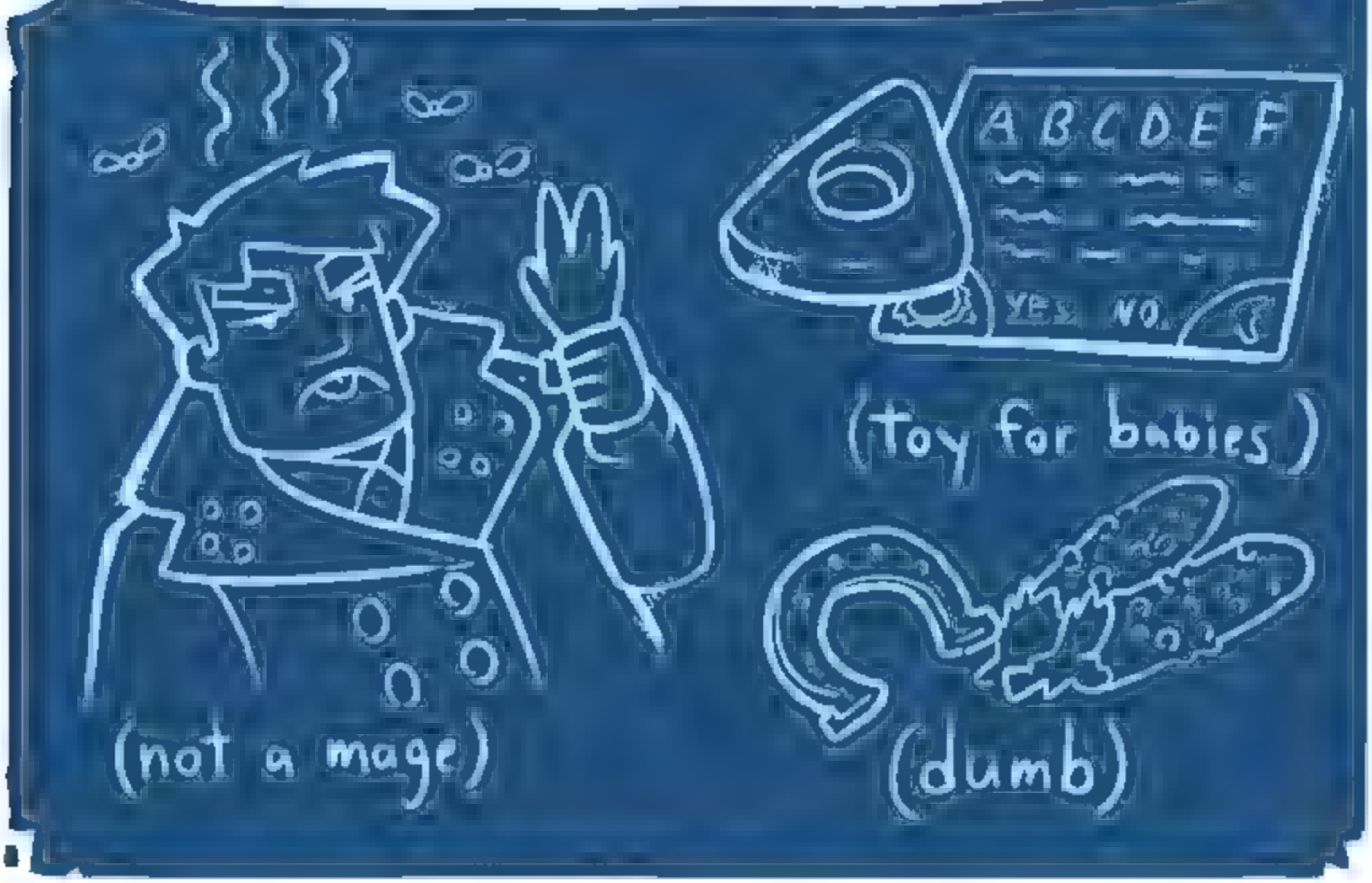
(Hair/Snakes)

(Blood/Coyotes)

(sight/fireflies) (teeth/pants??)

Witches get *MAGIC PETS???*
It's not cool! IT'S NOT SUPER-COOL AND AWESOME OR ANYTHING!

Finally, there's sympathetic magic, or Folk Magic. People that practice this aren't ***real*** mages. Folk Magic is just knowing certain rules spirits follow, and what sort of rituals and tokens help you play by – or break – those rules. This stuff is basic baby easy magic! You can buy protective stickers and sage at any convenience store! Really, it doesn't deserve to be on the list!



P.A.
And that's magic! I'm sure I've answered literally every question you-

Can you get a job doing magic?
Do I get to pick my magic pet when I become a witch?
Do witches choose which bodypart??
Do you have to be born with magic to do it?
Uh, maybe?
Mostly illegally.
Anyone can learn it.
No idea.
P.A.

If magic has proven, replicable effects, how come it's not a science? Why is it not used for the betterment of civilization?
The applications of a flask that creates infinite liquid – or a strand of hair that changes its mass without consuming energy – could surely be put to better use than monster-hunting and mercenary witchcraft.

And speaking of witchcraft, do you not find it troubling that one form of magic – a magic more commonly practiced by women – is portrayed as somehow more evil than another?
Do you think this divide between society and magic is born of a systemic bias toward the supernatural? What are your thoughts on the rights of golems as thinking beings?
E F G H I
PACT
PACT

WOW that's all we have time for, kids! Haha! Say goodbye to Daniel! Your teacher will have a quick quiz for you, and P.A.C.T. bumper stickers!!
And remember! As the world crumbles around you, knowledge is the only currency that matters!
Let's go, Quinn.

SLAM

When I become a witch, I'm gonna have a magic *dog* made of *spit*.

## FOLLOW THE AUTHOR HERE:

TWITTER - **@BFLEUTER**

TUMBLR - **BFLEUTER**

DEVIANT ART - **BEANJAMISH**

**SUPPORT THE AUTHOR HERE:**

PATREON - **PATREON.COM/DERELICT**

STORE - **BFCOMICS.BIGCARTEL.COM**